LGBTQ PHC

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“Sexual orientation is who you go to bed with. Gender identity is who you go to bed as.” - Dr. Norman Spack
Population of Focus

According to the Healthy People 2020 Database, the LGBT population is at increased risk for certain negative health outcomes:

- LGBT youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide
- LGBT youth are more likely to be homeless
- Lesbians are less likely to get preventive services for cancer
- Gay men are at higher risk of HIV and other STDs, especially among communities of color
- Lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to be overweight or obese
- Transgender individuals have a high prevalence of HIV/STDs, victimization, mental health issues, and suicide and are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexual or LGB individuals
- Elderly LGBT individuals face additional barriers to health because of isolation and a lack of social services and culturally competent providers
- LGBT populations have the highest rates of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use
Interprofessional Teams

- LICSW (Licensed Clinical Social Workers)
- Primary Care Physicians
- PAs, NPs
- Endocrinologists
- Urologists

- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Electrologist
- Cosmetologist
- Speech therapist
- Plastic surgeons

Where do they provide care?
- Hospitals, schools, community health centers, outpatient care centers
Health Advocacy

Fenway Health
- Recent advocacy campaigns stressing the importance of the availability of injectable estrogen to transgender women
- Additional funding for HIV and Hepatitis C programming in Massachusetts.

Planned Parenthood League of MA
- Recent advancements include providing PrEP and hormone affirming therapy in MA
- Hormone affirming therapy available in ⅘ PP MA sites, not yet in Worcester
- Worcester location preparing staff for onsurge of trans clients

How to be an advocate as a provider?
- Treat LGBTQ+ clients LIKE HUMANS!!!!!!
- ASK PRONOUNS!!!!!
- OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS (on gender identity, sexuality, relationships)!!!
- VOTE YES ON 3!! Trans rights are human rights!!
Supporters of Worcester Area GLBT Youth: Worcester branch of the AGLY network, and is partnered with AIDS Project Worcester.

**Target demographic**: LGBTQ+ Youth and Allies 22 years and under

**Services provided**:
- Weekly programming that provides information on HIV/STI’s,
- Ways to practice safe and consensual sex, prevention
- Screening, activism, LGBTQIA+ representation in the media, and more!

**Ideas for improvement**: Increased visibility and outreach to local youth possibly through social media or presentations in school systems
Safe Homes

**Target demographic:** “Our goal in offering support to LGBTQ youth throughout Central Massachusetts is to decrease isolation and foster general health and well-being. Our mission is to provide safe and supportive services for LGBTQ youth so that they feel nurtured and validated in all aspects of their identity.”

**Services provided:** Crisis and Counseling Intervention, HIV/STI testing, training sessions for professionals, drop in support services focused on housing, employment, transportation, and transition related support

**Ideas for improvement:** Expansion of services (drop in is only available Thursday nights)
AIDS Project Worcester

- **Target demographic:**
  - APW provides a comprehensive range of services to support the medical care and various service needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and those at greatest risk for HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV).

- **Services provided:**
  - Testing and counseling (STI’s, HIV, HCV)
  - Syringe services
  - PrEP
  - Narcan
  - Youth groups (e.g. SWAGLY)
  - Peer support and mental health
  - Housing supportive services
  - Case management
  - Transportation
  - Educational programs

- **Ideas for improvement:**
  - Expand the food pantry
Elder Support Network

Target demographic:

Are you over 50 and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex?
Are you alone because you’ve lost a partner or spouse or because your friends have moved away or died?
Do you find yourself getting out of the house less and less because of physical limitations or lack of motivation?
Has your community disappeared as you have grown older?

WLEN periodically sponsors social events for LGBT people age 50+. Enjoy new activities and meet new friends through WLEN.

Services provided:

**The Rainbow Lunch and Supper Clubs** offer LGBTIQA+ seniors age 60+ a nutritious meal and an opportunity to socialize with friends.

**The Rainbow Lunch Club** meets the **2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, 90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA. **Lunch is served at noon**, followed by programs or social time.

**The Rainbow Supper Club** meets the **1st Tuesday evening of each month: 6:00-8:00pm** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, 90 Holden Street, Worcester, MA. **Supper is served at 6:15pm**, followed by social time.

Ideas for improvement:

- Networking with non-English speakers
Fenway Health (Boston, MA)

Target demographic: “The mission of Fenway Health is to enhance the wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and all people in our neighborhoods and beyond through access to the highest quality health care, education, research and advocacy”

Services provided:

Ideas for improvement: Accessibility
“Ivory tower” mentality
Target Demographic: The LGBT Asylum Task Force is a ministry of Hadwen Park Church and a community-based organization dedicated to supporting and empowering LGBTQI individuals who are seeking asylum in the United States.

Services Provided: Asylum seekers who file for asylum in the United States are not permitted to work until they are granted a work permit and social security number, a process which can take more than a year. During that time, the Task Force strives to provide housing and financial support for these individuals.

Ideas for improvement: community outreach

If you wish to donate: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?token=DJa7CLXjLogDPrAC7O8Xuq2brHF8umgIYPAqJwElqpvXH5OjbqN3JsZly5Y2skfQiOnW&country.x=US&locale.x=US
Family Health Center Worcester

Target demographic: “All residents in the Greater Worcester area, especially culturally diverse populations.”

Services provided:

- **General**: Comprehensive primary health care and social services, regardless of patients’ ability to pay.

- **LGBTQ+ services**:
  - Psychosocial assessments for gender-affirming hormone therapy
  - Gender-affirming hormone therapy continuance/monitoring
  - Referrals for gender-affirming surgery
  - Case management

Ideas for improvement:

- Expansion of practice size
- Admin support
Planned Parenthood of Massachusetts

Target Demographic: “The mission of PPLM is to protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and freedom of choice by providing clinical services, education and advocacy. Our vision is that sexual health is essential to every person's well-being.”

Services:

- Contraception
- STI, HIV, and Hep C Testing
- Pregnancy Testing and Options Counseling
- Abortion
- Non-gendered Sexual and Reproductive Health Education
- Consent Based gender affirming hormone therapy
- Routine gynecological exam

Ideas for Improvement:

- GU services
Acknowledgements

Many thanks to:
AIDS Project Worcester
Safe Homes
Worcester LGBT Elder Network
Family Health Center
Planned Parenthood
Dr. Ken Peterson
Dr. Stuart Chipkin
Dr. Heather-Lyn Haley
Dr. Carla Carten
Mini/Ongoing Project

Distribution of pronoun pins to UMass community
Reference

